

Water District 120 Annual Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2004
Riverside Inn, Blackfoot

Tim Deeg called the Water District 120 Annual Meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Tim said the first order of business was to elect a meeting chairman and secretary. Neal Powell made a motion to elect Tim Deeg chairman and Terry Klipfel secretary. The motion was seconded by Scott Clawson and passed unanimously.

Tim Deeg welcomed members, and talked briefly about meeting notices, explaining that they had been mailed according to Idaho Code. He talked about the purpose of the meeting and described the voting process, stating that unless there were objections, a one man, one vote system would be used. Tim also explained the definition of a Water District. He said as the adjudication process was completed, more basins would be included in Water District 120.

Tim asked Terry Klipfel to read the minutes from last year's annual meeting. After the minutes were read, Lance Gardner made a motion to accept them as read. Richard Line seconded the motion and members voted to accept the minutes as presented.

Tim Deeg asked Lewis Rounds to discuss the 2004 proposed resolutions. Lewis explained that the resolutions are pretty much the same as last year with the date changes. Lewis read and explained each resolution. There was some discussion on the dates that set the fiscal year. Lewis explained why dates had been set as they were, and said there was a resolution, which gave the advisory committee the authority to adopt an interim budget between the end of the fiscal year and the next annual meeting. Lewis then explained the budget break down and the IDWR contract. There were some questions and discussion about what services are provided by the proposed budget Lewis said he would explain further when he gave the report on accomplishments for 2003. One member expressed concern and asked that discussion of the resolutions and budget cease until Lewis could give the report. Tim Deeg asked if there was a motion to continue discussion of the resolutions and budget as planned. Neal Powell made a motion to continue discussion on the resolutions and the budget. Walter Gay seconded the motion. Members voted to continue discussion of the resolutions. After discussion of all resolutions the meeting was turned over to Tim Deeg. Tim talked briefly about the IDWR contract and that advisors for Water District 120 had determined it to be fair and just. Had it not been, Tim said, advisors would have looked elsewhere and always have the option to do so. Tim encouraged members to communicate with their advisors for explanations and input. At this time Tim asked if there was a motion to accept the resolutions and budget as presented. Bill Taylor made the motion, and Stephanie Micklesen seconded it. Members voted to accept the 2004 resolutions and budget as proposed.

Next Tim Deeg suggested a recess for a period of fifteen minutes to determine the composition of the advisory committee. Craig Evans made the motion accordingly, and Lance Gardner seconded the motion. Members recessed for the requested time. Members were grouped according to ground water district.

After re-convening, the Bonneville Jefferson Ground Water District suggested the following members remain as advisors: Bill Taylor, Dane Watkins, and Stephanie Micklesen

Bingham Ground Water District proposed that Craig Evans, Scott Clawson, Gaylen Van Orden, Walter Gay (Nonpareil Processing Corp), act as advisors, and proposed Neal Powell as an alternate.

Aberdeen American Falls Ground Water District suggested the following members: Kevin Michaelson, Tim Deeg, Terrell Sorensen, and Richard Mayer (City of Aberdeen). Suggested alternates were Richard Line, and Kirk Atkins.

Lance Gardner made a motion to accept the advisors as proposed and Bill Taylor seconded the motion. A unanimous ballot was cast.

Tim Deeg asked Lewis Rounds to give the water master report. Lewis gave an overview of accomplishments for the year, and talked briefly about diversion audits. Lewis reminded members that measurements were done on a three year rotating basis by law and said inventory of diversions is necessary for accurate reporting. Lewis said the goal of audits is to measure 5% to 10% of those diversions measured by the ground water districts.

Lewis discussed the identification of illegal diversions within the district by use of satellite imagery, stating that the satellite generally used (Landsat 7) did not work in 2003, but IDWR and the district used imagery provided by an older satellite (Landsat 5). Lewis showed an example of an image used in 2003, stating that the resolution wasn't nearly as good as the images used in 2002 and taken by the newer satellite. Within Water District 120, Lewis said there were approximately 640 total acres with potentially unauthorized water use. Generally persons were contacted and informed about questionable acres. A couple of the discrepancies had to be remedied through the transfer process. Lewis also talked briefly about the WMIS database.

Lewis talked about budget considerations, explaining that the budget passed was for \$67,465. Lewis said that the cost per acre-foot to the Water District 120 is about \$0.10. Lewis said there would be a minimum of \$25.00 assessed to non-measured diversions. For diversions being measured, there would be a minimum charge of \$50.00 plus an additional charge of \$0.10 per acre-foot. Lewis said this makes the bills close to the same as when folks were in the East Water Measurement District. Budget expenses for personnel were based on "our best estimate" to share one full-time person with the measurement district, to pay a Water Master for 1/3 of his time, and a secretary for 1/3 of her time. Lewis said the district should have a better idea of personnel needs or costs after a year of operation because personnel will be charging their time directly to a fee account. Lewis explained a break down of the budget and showed the pro-rata assessments by ground water districts and/or other entities.

Next Lewis talked briefly about evapo-transpiration (ET) rates and trends during 2003. He talked about ground water levels and showed slides comparing how levels had changed during the recent drought period. Someone asked Lewis about doing depth measurements. Lewis said the reason they do not often do them is because they are risky. He said they would rather leave these measurements to the USGS, but said that the district does check some. Reservoir levels were discussed. Lewis said that at the time of the meeting, reservoir levels were at 36% compared to the 43% they were at this time last year. Lewis said that snow levels currently are just below 100% of normal for the Snake River basin above Palisades. After further discussion on snow levels, Tim Deeg asked for a motion to accept the water master's report. Neal Powell made a motion to accept the report as presented and Walter Gay seconded the motion. Members voted to accept the report.

Tim gave his report on the stipulated agreement, saying the 2year agreement had expired, but is being extended through 2004. The reduction program has been removed with a credit/debit system used instead. Tim said there is a credit carry forward of approximately 6,142 acre-feet for 2002, and approximately 5,462 for 2003. Compliance to the stipulated agreement in 2003 resulted in the purchase of water through the global rental pool and other leased water rights. Tim said they are beginning to draft a long-term agreement for 5-10 years that would be modified from time to time based on the best science available at the time of the new agreement. Tim said they had been able to develop a good relationship with surface water users through this process, and stated the long-term plan to supply replacement water is the best mitigation plan. Tim explained some of the problems that ground water users in Water District 130 are having with the aquaculture spring water users, and said it is possible that Water District 120 could be drawn into litigation. He said this is a good reason to have a long-term agreement in place. Tim asked Ron to give for his report.

Ron Carlson wanted to give members an “all encompassing” report of where we are in his discussion about the ingredients of ground water management soup. He described some of the main ingredients of the soup and how they affect the “recipe”. He briefly discussed the history of water management, and the main ingredient of the soup; water. He explained how capitalism, democracy, legal chaos, and government affect the mix. Ron said that Water District 120 brings some order to the chaos and that as part of the district users are in a better position to influence the rules and define goals, i.e. you are in a position to flavor the soup.

Ron turned the meeting to Tim Deeg. Tim introduced Tim Luke and Lynn Tominaga, asking if either had anything to share. They did not. There was no old or new business. Neal Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie Micklesen seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Klipfel